

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A medical apparatus lease system comprising:

an input section for inputting information on a usage status of a leased medical apparatus;

5 a storage section for storing said information on said usage status of said leased medical apparatus as electronic data;

a transmission section for transmitting said electronic data on said usage status stored in said storage section;

10 a lease fee system holding system for holding lease fee systems that set lease fees for said leased medical apparatus;

a calculation section for calculating ~~the~~ an amount of lease fees for said leased medical apparatus by correlating said electronic data on said usage status to said lease fee systems held by said fee system holding system; and

15 a billing information creating section for creating billing information for charging the amount of lease fees calculated by said calculation section to a preset payer of the lease fees for said leased medical apparatus.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The system according to claim 1, ~~further comprising a~~ wherein said leased medical apparatus ~~having~~ has a usage status storage section for storing information on said usage status as electronic data, wherein:

5           said input section inputs the information on the usage  
status for the leased medical apparatus.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The system according to claim 1,  
further comprising a return section for returning status report  
information ~~such as~~ including information on said amount of lease  
fees ~~or other information, for example, an error status for~~  
5 ~~errors in the medical apparatus,~~ from said calculation section to  
said transmission section or said leased medical apparatus.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The system according to claim 1,  
further comprising an authentication section for permitting only  
a previously authenticated person to input or change client  
information on a client using said medical apparatus lease system  
5 and apparatus information on the client using said medical  
apparatus lease system.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The system according to claim 1,  
wherein the lease fee system for said leased medical apparatus is  
selected from among: a program for determining an amount due  
depending on ~~the~~ a number of times that said leased medical  
5 apparatus has been operated, a program for determining the amount  
due depending on ~~the~~ a number of outputs from said leased medical  
apparatus, a program for determining the amount due depending on

an amount of time for which said leased medical apparatus has been operated or leased, and a program for determining the amount  
10 due depending on ~~the~~ an amount of energy used by said leased medical apparatus.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The system according to claim ~~1~~ 5, further comprising a program used with said programs for said lease fee system for said leased medical apparatus to prohibit an increase in ~~the~~ fees when said leased medical apparatus is  
5 tentatively used to check its operation or functioning.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The system according to claim ~~1~~, further comprising a computation section for computing an experience on usage of said leased medical apparatus and an output section for outputting the computed experience data.

8. (Currently Amended) A medical apparatus lease method comprising:

~~an input step of~~ inputting information on a usage status of a leased medical apparatus;

5 ~~a storage step of~~ storing said information on said usage status of said leased medical apparatus as electronic data;

~~a transmission step of~~ transmitting said stored electronic data on said usage status;

~~a calculation step of~~ calculating an amount of lease fees  
10 for said leased medical apparatus by correlating said electronic  
data on said usage status to preset lease fee systems for said  
leased medical apparatus;

~~a billing information creating step of~~ creating billing  
information required to charge the calculated amount of lease  
15 fees ~~calculated by said calculation step~~ to a preset payer of  
said lease fees for said leased medical apparatus; and

~~a billing step of~~ providing said fee payer with said created  
billing information ~~created by said billing information creating~~  
~~section.~~

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 8,  
further comprising ~~a return step of~~ returning status report  
information ~~such as~~ including information on said amount of lease  
fees ~~or other information, for example, an error status for errors~~  
5 ~~in the medical apparatus,~~ to said leased medical apparatus.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 8,  
further comprising ~~an authentication step of~~ permitting only a  
previously authenticated person to input or change client  
information on a client using said medical apparatus lease  
5 ~~system~~ method and apparatus information on the client using said  
medical apparatus lease ~~system~~ method.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 8,  
wherein the lease fee system for said leased medical apparatus is  
selected from among: a program for determining an amount due  
depending on ~~the~~ a number of times that said leased medical  
5 apparatus has been operated, a program for determining the amount  
due depending on ~~the~~ a number of outputs from said leased medical  
apparatus, a program for determining the amount due depending on  
an amount of time for which said leased medical apparatus has  
been operated or leased, and a program for determining the amount  
10 due depending on ~~the~~ an amount of energy used by said leased  
medical apparatus.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim ~~8~~ 11,  
~~further comprising wherein~~ a program is used with said programs  
for said lease fee system for said leased medical apparatus to  
prohibit an increase in ~~the~~ fees when said medical apparatus lease  
5 method is tentatively used to check its operation or functioning.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim ~~8~~ 11,  
further comprising ~~a computation step for~~ computing an experience  
on usage of said leased medical apparatus, and ~~an output step for~~  
outputting the computed experience data.

Claims 14-18 (Canceled).